Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

San Francisco, California

Profile of Drug Indicators

June 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

San Francisco, California

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics 1

- Population (2000 Census): 776,733
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 43.6% white, 7.6% black/African American, 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native, 30.7% Asian, 0.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 0.3% some other race, 3.0% two or more races, 14.1% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- ➤ The city of San Francisco is located in San Francisco County.

Politics

- ➤ Mayor: Willie L. Brown, Jr.²
- ➤ Board of Supervisors (Districts 1-11, respectively): Jake McGoldrick; Gavin Newsom; Aaron Peskin; Fiona Ma; Matt Gonzalez (President); Chris Daly; Tony Hall; Bevan Dufty; Tom Ammiano; Sophie Maxwell; Gerardo Sandoval. ³
- ➤ Chief of Police: Prentice E. Sanders⁴
- ➤ San Francisco Sheriff: Michael Hennessey⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- ➤ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)⁶
 The Northern California HIDTA, formerly referred to as the San Francisco Bay Area HIDTA, was designated in 1997. The HIDTA includes ten northern counties that are situated on the San Francisco Bay, including San Francisco County.
- > Drug Elimination Team'
 San Francisco's police department, district attorney's office, public defender's office, sheriff's department, adult and juvenile probation departments, and health department created the Drug Elimination Team (DET). The DET partnership focuses on the reduction of drug-related crime by assessing crime trends throughout the City to develop and implement integrated strategies to suppress and prevent drug-related activity.
- ➤ San Francisco/San Francisco County Demand Treatment ⁸
 This pilot program will initiate screenings, brief interventions, and case management for vulnerable clients in two health centers that currently integrate primary care, mental health, and substance abuse services.

Federal Funding

- ➤ Drug Free Communities Support Program⁹
 Since FY 1998, funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program has only been awarded once in San Francisco. The Youth Power coalition received \$100,000 in FY 2002.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁰
 San Francisco was officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in 1998.

- ➤ FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in San Francisco:¹¹
 - Center for Mental Health Services
 - \$200,000 to San Francisco Department of Public Health for 9/30/00-8/31/02;
 - \$150,000 to Edgewood Center for Children and Families for 9/30/01-9/29/03;
 - \$150,117 to Homebase/Center for Common Concerns Inc. for 9/30/01-9/29/02;
 - An undisclosed amount was awarded to Homebase/Center for Common Concerns for 9/30/01-9/29/02:
 - \$149,480 to Asian American Recovery Services for 9/30/00-8/31/02;
 - \$400,000 to San Francisco Department of Public Health for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - \$371,455 to the University of California at San Francisco for 9/30/99-8/31/02;
 - \$581,825 to the University of California at San Francisco for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - \$60,000 to Parents Helping Parents, San Francisco for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 - \$430,728 to Health Initiatives for Youth for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - \$325,463 to American Society on Aging for 9/30/99-9/29/04;
 - \$94,020 to Community Education Group for 9/30/01-9/29/02;
 - \$399,998 to Wested for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
 - \$249,999 to Asian American Recovery Services for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$475,000 to San Francisco Department of Public Health for 9/30/99-9/29/02;
 - \$343,562 to Walden House for 9/30/99-9/29/02;
 - \$235,000 to the City/County of San Francisco, Department of Public Health for 9/30/00-9/29/02;
 - \$800,000 to San Francisco Department of Public Health for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$499,999 to Iris Center for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$295,282 to Women and Children's Family Services for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$499,905 to Friendship House Association of American Indians for 9/30/01-9/29/06:
 - \$549,078 to Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth for 9/30/99-9/29/02;
 - \$149,942 to Friendship House Association of American Indians for 9/15/01-9/14/02;
 - \$415,000 to San Francisco Department of Public Health for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$492,317 to the City/County of San Francisco for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - An undisclosed amount was awarded to the City/County of San Francisco for 9/30/99-9/29/01;
 - \$1,105,000 to the City/County of San Francisco for 8/01/01-7/31/02;
 - \$149,698 to Friendship House Association of American Indians for 9/30/01-9/29/02;
 - \$529,729 to Larkin Street Services, Inc. for 9/30/01-9/29/04;
 - \$487,348 to the University of California, San Francisco for 9/30/00-9/29/03;
 - \$399,999 to the University of California, San Francisco for 9/30/99-9/29/02.
- > FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant recipient in San Francisco:

- \$297,625 was awarded to the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts for drug court enhancement. 12
- ➤ There were no San Francisco recipients of the FY 2002 funding available from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to fight methamphetamine. ¹³
- ➤ There were no funding awards in San Francisco for the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grants. ¹⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

➤ During 2002, there were 58 homicides known to the police in San Francisco. This is a 26% increase over the 46 homicides known to police in 2001. ¹⁵ As of April 2003, there were 21 homicide offenses reported to San Francisco police. ¹⁶

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, San Francisco, 2001- April 2003

	Full Year	Full Year	JanApril
Offense Type	2001	2002	2003
Homicide	46	58	21
Rape	236	227	52
Robbery	3,843	3,269	1,063
Aggravated assault	2,517	2,417	762
Burglary	6,723	6,092	1,949
Other larceny	14,228	13,681	4,388
Auto boosting	10,769	11,647	4,060
Motor vehicle theft	6,708	6,536	2,346
Citywide total	45,092	43,927	16,675

➤ During 2001, there were 6,731 adult felony drug arrests in San Francisco. ¹⁷

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, San Francisco, 2001

Type of Drug Arrest	Male	Female	Total
Felony	5,521	1,210	6,731
Misdemeanor	1,105	294	1,399

➤ The number of San Francisco County felony drug arrests (adults and juveniles) decreased from 8,307 in 2000 to 7,058 in 2001. 18

Felony Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2001

Type of Felony Drug Arrest	2000	2001
Narcotics	6,236	5,214
Marijuana	1,143	935
Dangerous drugs	828	851
Other drug	100	58
Total felony drug arrests	8,307	7,058

➤ There were 1,625 misdemeanor drug arrests (adults and juveniles) in San Francisco County in 2001. 19

Misdemeanor Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2001

Type of Misdemeanor Drug Arrest	2000	2001
Marijuana	672	428
Other drug	1,358	1,197
Total misdemeanor arrests	2,030	1,625

Drugs

Cocaine

The prevalence of cocaine has increased in San Francisco after previous significant declines during the 1990s. Many users are shifting away from smoking crack towards using the powder form. Cocaine users are predominately black in San Francisco. ²⁰

> Heroin

Ethnographic observers report an increase in younger white heroin users, who do not inject the drug. Older users still prefer the injection route of administration. ²¹ From 2001-2002, heroin prices ranged from \$20 per ½ gram to \$18,000-\$80,000 per kilogram. Average purity levels ranged from 15% for Mexican heroin to 20-60% per kilogram. ²²

Marijuana

Marijuana sold for \$2,500 per pound from 2001-2002.²³ Marijuana use among youth is increasing in San Francisco.²⁴

> Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use is widespread in San Francisco. The speed scene remained active in San Francisco during 2002, but to a lesser extent than during its peak years of use around 1997. From 2001-2002, methamphetamine prices ranged from \$500-\$1,000 per ounce to \$4,500-\$10,000 per pound.

> Other Dangerous Drugs

MDMA tested 90% pure in the San Francisco area.²⁷ There has been an increase in the appearance of oxycodone in the street scene of San Francisco.²⁸

Juveniles

➤ During 2001, there were 216 juvenile felony drug arrests in San Francisco County. ²⁹

Juvenile Felony and Misdemeanor Drug Arrests, San Francisco County, 2000-2001

Type of Drug Arrest	2000	2001
Felony drug arrests		
Narcotics	258	171
Marijuana	94	37
Dangerous drugs	4	8
Felony drug arrest total	356	216
Misdemeanor drug arrests		
Marijuana	50	63
Other drugs	15	9

➤ During 2001, there were 215 juvenile drug arrests in the city of San Francisco. ³⁰

Number of Juvenile Arrests, San Francisco, 2001

Offense	Male	Female	Total
Homicide	2	0	2
Forcible rape	5	0	5
Robbery	271	43	314
Assault	147	35	182
Burglary	96	35	131
Theft	62	37	99
Motor vehicle theft	86	19	105
Drug	126	89	215
Other	196	61	257
Felony level total	991	319	1,310
Misdemeanor level total	818	586	1,404
Status offenses	8	6	14

➤ During 2001, a survey of San Francisco high school students indicated that 33.6% had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³¹

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, San Francisco, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	33.9%	33.2%	33.6%
Current marijuana use	17.7	18.9	18.3
Lifetime cocaine use	5.3	6.5	5.9
Current inhalant use	4.0	2.2	3.1
Lifetime heroin use	1.4	2.0	1.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.9	4.3	4.6
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	2.2	2.3
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	0.9	2.2	1.6
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	6.5	9.3	8.0

Enforcement

As of October 2001, there were 2,629 law enforcement employees in San Francisco (2,243 officers and 386 civilians).³²

Trafficking and Seizures

- Asian gangs distribute powder and crack cocaine on San Francisco streets, but crack cocaine is predominately sold in public housing.³³
- ➤ Drug trafficking organizations use the San Francisco area to smuggle MDMA into the United States from Europe. ³⁴
- ➤ Up to 20,000 marijuana plants have been found growing on land owned by the San Francisco Water Department and East Bay Regional Park. Hispanic gang members are involved in the distribution of marijuana.³⁵

Southeast Asian methamphetamine tablets (Ya Ba) have been seized in the San Francisco area. 36

Courts

- ➤ Drug Courts³⁷
 - As of May 2003, there were two drug courts in San Francisco that had been operating for over two years. No additional drug courts have been implemented or are being planned in San Francisco.
- San Francisco Adult Drug Court³⁸
 The Adult Drug Court is a pre-adjudication felony diversion program that began operating on March 15, 1995. Its target population includes eligible non-violent offenders charged with drug possession, certain possession for sale and sales charges, felony petty theft with a prior, auto burglary and passing bad checks.
- ➤ Juvenile Drug Court³⁹
 San Francisco's juvenile drug court, the "Youth Treatment and Education Court" (Y-TEC) serves juveniles ages 14 to 18 who have a history of criminal and substance abuse problems. Y-TEC offers both substance abuse treatment and education services.
- ➤ During FY 2001, 21.2% of federally sentenced offenders in Northern California had committed a drug offense, 40.3% of which involved methamphetamine. ⁴⁰

Federally Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Northern California, FY 2001

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Drug Type	Number	Percent		
Marijuana	14	8.0%		
Powder cocaine	50	28.4		
Methamphetamine	71	40.3		
Heroin	14	8.0		
Other drug	3	1.7		
Crack cocaine	24	13.6		

Corrections

- > San Francisco County Sheriff's Department Jail Programs include the following: 41
 - Sisters in Sober Treatment Empowered in Recovery (SISTERS): This program is an in-custody therapeutic community that provides educational and substance abuse counseling for women. SISTERS is staffed by counselors from Walden House and Deputy Sheriffs.
 - Roads to Recovery: This in-custody therapeutic community provides educational and substance abuse counseling for men. It is staffed by Deputy Sheriffs and counselors from Milestones.

Consequences of Use

➤ Preliminary data indicate that there were 3,618 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in San Francisco from January to June 2002. During full year 2001, there were 8,575 ED drug episodes. 42

Number of ED Drug Episodes and Drug Mentions, San Francisco, 1998-June 2002

Tumoer of ED Drug E	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	JanJune 2002
Alcohol-in-comb.	1,586	1,705	1,804	2,155	717
Cocaine	1,843	1,935	2,054	2,482	964
Heroin	2,360	3,050	2,756	2,790	1,344
Marijuana	391	469	627	704	217
Amphetamines	172	254	371	786	279
Methamphetamine	616	554	591	611	323
MDMA (Ecstasy)	38	47	107	152	66
Ketamine	2	4	14	11	6
LSD	43	55	67	46	4
PCP	67	62	70	76	35
Misc. hallucinogens	23	15	33	42	12
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
GHB	102	138	151	158	82
Inhalants	7	5	4	5	3
Combinations NTA*	11	17	25	17	10
Total drug episodes	9,068	8,928	7,857	8,575	3,618
Total drug mentions	12,525	12,702	12,171	13,743	5,486

^{*} NTA = not tabulated above

Number of Drug Deaths and ME Drug Mentions, San Francisco County, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol in combination	88	88	112	67	71
Cocaine	104	137	139	123	93
Heroin/morphine	123	145	166	117	97
Marijuana					1
Amphetamines		28	35	27	27
Methamphetamine	40	41	51	29	27
Club drugs	4	1	5	6	5
Hallucinogens	1	1	3		1
Inhalants				1	
Narcotic analgesics	123	150	159	128	75
Other analgesics	12	7	4	14	11
Benzodiazepines	43	46	38	39	37
Antidepressants	24	33	75	58	68
All other substances	88	82	90	76	99
Total drug deaths	227	253	287	217	206
Total drug mentions	650	1,636	1,539	1,375	612

[➤] During 2001, San Francisco County Medical Examiners (MEs) reported 206 drugrelated deaths in the county. Cocaine was mentioned 93 times by the MEs. 43

- In San Francisco, hepatitis C is emerging as a greater health concern of injecting drug users (IDUs) than hepatitis B. 44
- ➤ The Bay Area IDUs infection rate is 50-60%. 45
- During 1999, 22% of firearm-related fatalities in San Francisco who were dead at the scene tested positive for the presence of alcohol and/or drugs. 46

Percent Positive for Alcohol/Drugs in Firearm-Related Fatalities, San Francisco, 1999

	Percent Positive
Dead at the scene	
Positive for alcohol	9%
Positive for drugs	16
Positive for alcohol and/or drugs	22
Admitted to hospital	
Positive for alcohol	6
Positive for drugs	6
Positive for alcohol and/or drugs	10

Treatment

> During 2001, there were 8,684 treatment admissions for heroin in San Francisco.⁴⁷

Number of Treatment Admissions, San Francisco, 2001

Drug Type	2001
Alcohol (with other drugs)	4,027
Cocaine/crack	2,961
Heroin	8,684
Marijuana	800
Stimulants	982
Other drugs	263
Total	17,817

➤ During 2000, heroin accounted for 54.8% of treatment admissions in San Francisco. 48

Percentage of Treatment Admissions, San Francisco, 2000-2001

Drug Type	2000	2001
Cocaine	24.2%	21.4%
Heroin	54.8	63.0
Marijuana	5.9	6.5

➤ Between September 2000 to 2001, there were more than 5,000 calls to substance abuse referral services in San Francisco/San Francisco County. 49

Sources

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² San Francisco Mayor's Web site: http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/mayor/

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<sup>3</sup> San Francisco Board of Supervisors: <a href="http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsupvrs">http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsupvrs</a>
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¹³ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth grantees.pdf

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¹⁹ Ibid.

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²⁰ National Institute on Drug Abuse, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse - Advance Report, December 2002: http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1202adv/1202adv.html

²² National Institute on Drug Abuse, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse: Volume I: Highlights and Executive Summary, June 2002: http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/Vol1 602.pdf 23 Ibid.

²⁴ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse - Advance Report*, December 2002: http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/CEWG/AdvancedRep/1202adv/1202adv.html

²⁶ National Institute on Drug Abuse, Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse: Volume I: Highlights and

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²⁷ National Drug Intelligence Center, California Northern and Eastern Districts Drug Threat Assessment, January 2001: http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/653/index.htm

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³⁰ California Department of Justice, California Criminal Justice Profiles, 2001:

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